



COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Warsaw,

**Adam Bodnar**

**VII.531.24.2016.AG**

**Mr. David Isaac  
Chair of the Board of Commissioners  
Equality and Human Rights Commission  
Fleetbank House  
2-6 Salisbury Square  
London EC4Y 8JX**

I address my message to you acting in the capacity of the Commissioner for Human Rights (the Ombudsman) who in Poland is the national human rights institution and constitutional authority for legal control and protection.

Polish citizens who benefit as migrant workers from the freedoms of movement and work in an EU country are subject of constant concern for Polish Ombudsman. Recently, the media - both British and Polish - reported about the very serious attacks against Poles, which happened in Harlow, Essex (see for example:

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/aug/30/five-teenage-boys-arrested-after-mandies-following-attack-in-essex> or <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-essex-37212778>). In June, media reported about other cases of hate crime (<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-36656348>).

I must admit that I welcomed with satisfaction the statement of Theresa May on the occasion of her recent visit in Poland in July 2016 in which she condemned the attacks on Polish community in the UK and reassured that rights of Poles should be protected (<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-36916836>). I also note that the UK Police and UK NHRI are very sensitive to any crimes committed on Poles.

The international cooperation is an important element in the overall activities of the national human rights institutions. In my opinion it should also aim at securing the inviolability of rights of any person, in this case - Polish citizens living permanently or temporarily abroad. In my opinion the cases of aggression cause that I need to ask you for assistance. Let me bring the attention of the Equality and Human Rights Commission first of all to the latest attack on Arkadiusz Jozwik, murdered in Harlow and call for monitoring

this particular investigation. I would also very much appreciate any additional information which the Commission possess about this crime.

Therefore, I would be very grateful for any possible action within the competences of the Commission which would aim at prevention and which could challenge any discrimination against Poles in future. I would also welcome any references and additional opinion of the Commission about the general situation of Poles in the UK.